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FROM THE ACTION DIRECTOR OF "VERSUS"
YUJI SHIMOMURA

AN UNKNOWN TIME.

AN UNKNOWN PLACE.

WITHOUT REASON.

WITH NO FUTURE.

HIS ONLY DESIRE IS...

DESTRUCTION!

Media Blasts and Action Cinema Presents

TAK SAKAGUCHI VERSUS

DEATH TRANCE

COMING SOON TO DVD!

PRODUCED BY MITSUHIKO YAMASHITA
WRITTEN BY YUJI SHIMOMURA & KAZUHIRO MATSUDA
DIRECTED BY YUJI SHIMOMURA

WWW.DEATH-TRANCE.COM



A JVC GYAO FILM

DEATH TAPES

KANA TAKEUCHI



NEW YORK, NEW YORK



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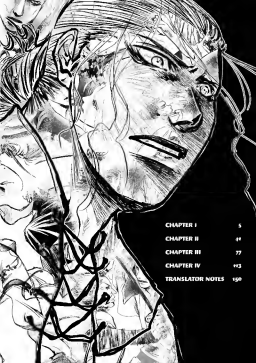
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UNGH!

DAMMIT!

KINDA LIKE THE
OLD MAN A FEW
DAYS BACK.

SHE'S BORED.



CALON, WHY
DON'T YA

—LET US HAVE
SOME FUN BEFORE
YOU CROAK?













DAMN!!



I. MADE
A MISTAKE!!

GRAVE!!





ZEN...!?









ZEN...



DON'T YOU-

- RECOGNIZE ME?



- GRAVE

OF COURSE.

I...

RECOGNIZE
YOU, -



GRAVE...

YOU'RE
A HATENA.

YOU MONSTERS
KILLED



SHIRAYUKI!



I COULD BE.



ARE...

YOU BEING
CONTROLLED BY
THEM?



"PLAY!
PLAY!"

I HEAR
TWO VOICES IN
MY HEAD.

"FIGHT
FIGHT!"

WHY DOES IT FEEL
LIKE IT MEANS THE
SAME THING?



DEATH.

IS THIS
WHAT YOU
MONSTERS
THINK?

MURDER

GRAVE!

IS IT?

IS IT JUST A GAME...

IS FIGHTING
NOTHING MORE
THAN CHILD'S PLAY
FOR YOU?





GRAVE.

I REFUSE
TO BECOME ONE
OF YOU.



I AM A
HUMAN!



FIGHTING IS-

- A GAME?



I'M...

YOU'LL HAVE TO
KILL ME!



EVEN IF
SOMETHING'S
CONTROLLING
ME.

I WILL KILL
EVERY SINGLE ONE OF
YOU MONSTERS
RESPONSIBLE FOR
KILLING SHIRAYUKI!

IF YOU DON'T
WANNA DIE.











OH MY!!



!

PLAY!

PLAAYY!



GRAVE!!

YOU ARE
HUMAN! I KNOW
YOU ARE NOT ONE
OF THESE EVIL
THINGS.

DONT-



- KILL HIM!











SO...

THIS IS
YOUR LAIR!









THAT...



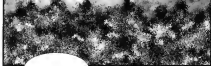
THAT ARM...!











HEH...



HEH...
WERE YOU ALWAYS...



...SO WEAK-

-GRAVE?



-



HEH...

IT'S NOT LIKE I
HAVEN'T GOTTEN
HURT ENOUGH
ALREADY, BUT-

- LET'S FINISH THIS.











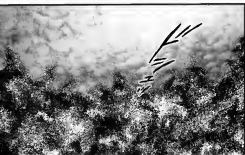




ZEN...



I WANNA SEE
SHIRAYUKI.









THAT WAS THE FIRST
TIME I FELT LIKE I
WANTED TO LIVE.

I WANTED
TO LIVE...

AND FIGHT
WITH STRONGER
PEOPLE.



HOWEVER, I-

- WHAT IT
MEANS

TO FIGHT..

- STILL DON'T KNOW-



MAYBE.

THAT'S THE
"MEANING" YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR.



I JUST WANT TO
FIGHT...!



HEY, ARE
YOU ALL RIGHT?

SHUT UP!
YOU'RE THE ONE
THAT STABBED ME!



AGH...



I PROMISED
SHIRAYUKI THAT I'D
HELP THE VILLAGERS
CROSS THE
MOUNTAIN.



I'M GLAD YOU
DIDN'T KILL ME.



HUH...

THEN WE'LL
HAVE TO TAKE CARE
OF THE HATENAS?



I WANT YOU TO KNOW.



FINE.



THAT AFTER THE
HATENAS ARE UNDER
CONTROL, I'M GOING
TO KILL YOU -

- NO MATTER HOW
LONG IT TAKES.



MAKE SURE
YOU DON'T CROAK
FIRST.

YOU'RE WEAK.



OLD
SHIRAYUKI'S
DEATH—

—CHANGE
HIM?



HE REALLY
TALKS A LOT
MORE NOW.

I'VE RARELY
HEARD HIM SAY
ANYTHING OTHER
THAN "SHUT UP"
AND "UH-HUH."



SHIRAYUKI

IS YOUR HEART

STILL WITH HIM?





MS...

SHIRAYUKI?





LET'S HAVE
FUN!



I KNOW—



LET'S PLAY!

HONORABLE
PRIEST...



SO—

—WHY—



— THAT YOU ARE
JUST A CLAY DOLL
WITH NO CON-
SCIENCE.

I KNOW
THIS!





THAT CAREFREE,
PEACEFUL SMILE...

MS. SHIRAKUKU...

I WISH I COULD
HAVE SEEN YOU SMILE
LIKE THAT WHILE YOU
WERE STILL ALIVE.















WHO THE—

SHIRA...

YUKI?

—HELL ARE YOU?!



THAT'S NOT MS.
SHIRAYUKI!

WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
YOU?

IT'S OBVIOUS
WHO SHE IS!



YOU KNOW
BETTER THAN
ANYONE THAT
SHE'S DEAD!

IT'S A DOLL
CREATED BY
ATTACHING HER
LEFT ARM!

ZEN!

GRAVE!



—ONE OF HAZEN'S
GAMES.

THIS IS
ALL ANOTHER—



STOP!

I SAID STOP!



ZEN...

LET'S PLAY!



SHIRAYUKI!



PLAY!

PLAY!



ZEN...



PLAY! MORE!

MORE!



SHIRAYUKI!



ZEN!

ZEN.

PLAY WITH ME!



SHIRAYUKI!













ZEN!



ZEN!

ZEN!

YOU GOTTA
GET UP!!



LET'S
PLAY!



PLAY!



HOW
PATHETIC.

I'VE SEARCHED
ALL THIS TIME, FOR
WHAT?

THOSE CREATURES
ARE NO MATCH FOR
MERE HUMANS,
BUT—



—MAYBE, JUST
MAYBE,

GRAVE CAN
DEFEAT THEM...!!





**LET'S PLAY
TOGETHER.**



THAT'S YOUR WEAPON?

INTERESTING.

I'VE HAVEN'T BEEN—

—SEPARATED
FROM MINE SINCE
I WAS BORN.





WHAT HAVE
I BEEN
LOOKING
AT?

HAVE I
BEEN BLIND
ALL THIS
TIME?



THIS IS—

—AMAZING?



MORE!

**LET'S PLAY
HARDER!**

GOOD!

**DISH OUT
ALL YOU CAN.**

**YOU
GODDAMNED
HATENA!**

HATENA

...







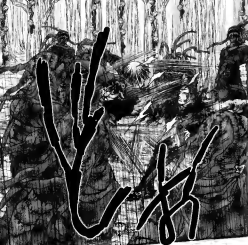
—RIGHT.

SHIRAYUKI.

YOU'VE WERE
ALWAYS—

















I'M NOT
DONE WITH
YOU YET!

LET'S
FINISH THIS
DAMNIT!



I'LL FIGHT
YOU TIL THE
END...

IF YOU'RE
WILLING TO PUT
YOUR LIFE ON
THE LINE

THIS IS
JUST A GAME
THIS ISN'T A
REAL FIGHT















I WON'T...

LET YOU DOWN!



I DON'T
WANNA DEPEND
ON YOU, BUT-

-THE REST
IS UP TO YOU,
GRAVE.



YOU SEEM
HAPPY ABOUT
THAT.

HE'S
CHANGED...
A LOT.

YOU MUST
BE KIDDING. I'M
HUNTING LIKE
HELL!

SHIRAYUKI.



HE LOOKS
LIKE HE'S REALLY
ENJOYING THIS.

I PROMISE TO-

-PROTECT
THE VILLAGE.







SHIRA...



I AM
SHIRAYUKI



—FORMER
LEADER

—THE ONLY
DAUGHTER OF
OUR—



FROM THIS
DAY FORWARD
I WILL BE SERVING
YOU—

—AS THE CHIEF
OF THIS VILLAGE



WHEN SHE WAS
SPEAKING—

—HIS
EXPRESSION
WAS THAT OF A
TRUE LEADER.

FROM
THAT DAY
FORWARD

I VOWED
TO PROTECT HER
AS MUCH AS
I COULD

I'M SURE—

—GRANIE FELT
THE SAME WAY





NOW, HE
CAN PROBABLY
KILL ME EASILY

OHAYO. THE
BLADES ARE FLYING
SO FAST, MY EYES
CAN'T KEEP UP
ANYMORE.

YOU NICKED HIS
BUTT ONCE.



IT HAPPENED SO FAST
I HAD NO IDEA

-THAT HE
BECAME SO STRONG
IN A FLASH



IT'S FRIGHTENING
TO THINK-











LET'S PLAY!!

LONGER!!

MORE!

LET'S
PLAY TOGETHER
FOREVER!



THAT'S FINE-

-WITH ME, KID!



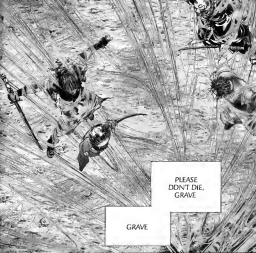
GRAVE!

STOP!



PLEASE
DON'T DIE...





PLEASE
DON'T DIE,
GRAVE

GRAVE



I CAN'T
KILL YOU.



HA HA

I THOUGHT I
WOULD BECOME
STRONGER—

—IF I KILLED
YOU. I THOUGHT
I COULD LET
GO.



YOU CAN
FIGHT IF THAT'S
WHAT YOU WANT
TO DO.

YOU CAN SEE
WHAT THE FUTURE
HOLDS FOR YOU.



SOMEDAY.



GRAVE—

—LEAVE THIS
VILLAGE.









NOOO! NOO!



LET'S PLAY!

**LET'S PLAY
FOREVER!!**

**DON'T STOP!!
NOOOO!**

GRRR...





HATENA...

HOW MUCH
WILL IT TAKE

TO SATISFY
OUR THIRST FOR
DEATH?















YOU DISTURB
THE PEACE OF THE FOREST.
CONTROL THE NATURAL
SPIRITS AND TRACK
HUMANS.

YOU FELL
INTO A DEEP
SLEEP A THOUSAND
YEARS AGO.

SOULS ENTER
YOUR THOUGHTS
AND TAKE PHYSICAL
FORM.



TIME FLOWS
AND HUMANS DRIFT
AWAY.

YOU SHALL SLEEP
FOR SEVERAL HUNDREDS OF
THOUSANDS OF YEARS
ONCE AGAIN.



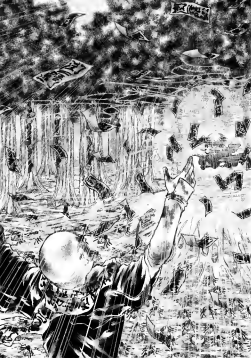
YOU PROHIBIT
PEACE DURING YOUR
REIGN.



REST AND BRING A
PERIOD OF PEACE BACK TO
THE LAND ONCE MORE.



SLEEP.







FRATENA...

AH...

WE WILL
PLAY AGAIN.



I WANT TO-

-PLAY
WITH YOU.

LET'S...



ONE DAY...



UNTIL THE
VERY END.



UNTIL WE
BOTH FALL
ASLEEP.









YOU SHOULD
AT LEAST GET
YOUR WOUNDS
TREATED...

ACTUALLY, I WAS
WAITING FOR YOU
TO SAY THAT.

I'M NOT
GONNA SEIZE
YOU ANY MORE.



THE
HUNTERS
HAVE FALLEN
ASLEEP.

IT'S TIME FOR
ME TO RETURN TO
MY VILLAGE.



-I'LL COME AFTER
YOU, GAVE.

I MUST
PREPARE TO LEAVE
THE VILLAGE.

ONCE I CROSS THE
MOUNTAIN-



SURE.

DON'T DIE.

GRAVE



I WILL
KILL YOU ONE
DAY.

YOU'D
BETTER STOP AIN'T
TE THEN.



FM...

I WANT
YOU TO STAY
ALIVE.



WHAT ARE
YOUR PLANS,

GRAVE?



UNTIL I HAVE THE
STRENGTH—

—TO KILL YOU,
GRAVE.

UNTIL THEN—



—DON'T DIE.



.....

I'M NOT SURE.





AFTER A LONG
TRIP, THE SIGHT OF THIS
BATTERED, OLD TEMPLE
WARMS MY HEART.

AH...
HOME, SWEET
HOME



SOMETIMES,
REALITY IS LIKE
A DREAM...

THIS JOURNEY
MADE ME REALIZE
HOW IMMATURE
MY SKILLS ARE...



WHEN I SPEAK
TO THE OTHER MONKS,
I WON'T KNOW WHERE
TO BEGIN...





IT WAS A
YOUNG MAN...!
HE WAS ALONE.

ALONE!?



PLEASE,
YOU HAVE TO
CHASE AFTER
HIM!

HE EVEN
MENTIONED
HIS NAME.



IT'S GONE!

WHO COULD HAVE
DONE THIS?!



THAT

IDiot!

THAT BASTARD
SAID HE WASN'T
SURE!!



HIS NAME
WAS GRIME.

WHAT THE
HELL IS HE TRYING
TO PROVE...?!



TO BE CONTINUED IN DEATH TRANCE THE MOVIE...

TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

Death Trance has been one of my favorite projects. I really enjoyed the strong characters and the surreal atmosphere of the story.

As a translator, I feel that my job is to accurately bring forth the dialogue to match not just the words but also the intentions of the creator in terms of the dialogue as well as the feel of the character. I also want to reflect the relationships and interactions of the various characters of each story.

In Japanese, different words are used following a person's name (usually their family name) to denote their familiarity, gender, age and/or social status. Unlike English, Japanese is more formal and the use of these words is mandatory. It is considered very rude to call someone using only their name. That's usually reserved only for friends and family. In English, it is commonplace to call your coworker or classmates by their first name, even if you're not terribly close to them. That is definitely not the case in the Japanese language. However, these words used to denote gender/age/social rank are often deleted in the translation from Japanese to English for several reasons. One reason is the lack of an equivalent term in English. The second reason is because it often sounds unnecessary and awkward. From an English reader's perspective, it would probably be strange for the characters in a book to refer to their classmates by using "Mr." before every name.

One of the main characters in this book, Shingaki, is a beloved leader of a small village. The term "san" in Japanese is used to note people of higher rank, and it is used consistently throughout the book to show her position and also reflect the respect that her villagers have for her. I wanted to reflect Shingaki's status by using "Ms." in front of her name to replace the "san" used in Japanese. I thought of possibly using "lady," however, that is a term used to reflect nobility, which Shingaki clearly is not. I also wanted to reflect the close relationship that Goro and Iro have for her because they call her simply by her name. I decided to leave some of the native structure of the Japanese language and reflect that in the translation, partly because I wanted to reflect the deep love that the villagers had for Shingaki, and





into the darkness that she had with both Jim and Gene.

If there's one other thing I want to mention about this story, it is regarding the chant of the words throughout the book. The words in the story is clearly a Buddhist, and he is reciting Buddhist prayers throughout the book. In the first, it is possible to read a prayer or a spell and understand what the person is attempting to accomplish. However, the use of Buddhist prayers is somewhat different from the conventional Western idea of spells and prayers. Many Buddhists believe that the power of prayer goes beyond the content and meaning of the prayer. The actual sound and vibration is believed to have certain powers above and beyond the literal meaning of the words. As a result, I decided to translate only the pronunciation, and not the words, because it simply won't make sense, and would end up being confusing.

I hope this information helps you, the reader, have a deeper understanding of the story, which will hopefully add to your enjoyment and appreciation of this terrible work. I hope you enjoy reading this book as much as I did translating it.

Yours forever, J. (2000)



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Martial Arts/
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AN UNKNOWN TIME.
AN UNKNOWN PLACE. WITHOUT REASONS.
WITH NO FUTURE.
HE ONLY DESIRE IS... DESTRUCTION!

The Golden of Destruction shatters the world and only three women stand between her and annihilation. Gaea, Zen and a mysterious Mark. As they make their way to her lair they're attacked from all sides by mysterious ninjas and undead creatures. Can three mortals possibly defeat a Golden? The shocking conclusion of the prequel to the film DEATH TRANCE, starring Tak Sakaguchi of VERSUS!

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BOOK THREE



DEATH

T A A N C E

KANA TAKEUCHI